

Appln. No. 10/795,970
Amendment dated May 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed February 6, 2006

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A safety syringe and cap holding device comprising:
a syringe having a body portion and a needle assembly interconnected with the body portion, the needle assembly including a needle with an injection end and a hub;
a cover removably attached to the hub and covering the injection end of the needle;
a ~~housing~~ cap holding device having a receptacle for receiving the cover; and
means in the ~~housing~~ cap holding device for disengaging the cover from the hub
and retaining the cover in the cap holding device to allow the syringe and needle assembly to be withdrawn from the ~~housing for use~~ cap holding device with the injection end of the needle uncovered while the cover remains in the ~~housing~~ cap holding device.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the hub comprises at least one recess disposed annularly about the hub.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the cover comprises at least one

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protrusion for engagement with the at least one recess of the hub.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the means for disengaging the cover comprises a linkage system in the ~~housing~~ cap holding device for moving the at least one protrusion out of engagement with the at least one recess for disengaging the cover from the hub.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the linkage system comprises one or more hooks for engaging one or more handles on the cover for disengaging the at least one protrusion away from the at least one recess to disengage the cover from the hub.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the linkage system is actuated remotely from the ~~housing~~ cap holding device.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 3, wherein~~ A safety syringe and cap holding device comprising: a syringe having a body portion and a needle assembly interconnected with the body portion, the needle assembly including a needle and a hub, the hub comprising at least one recess disposed annularly about the hub; a cover removably attached to the hub and covering the needle, the cover comprising at least one protrusion for engagement with the at least one recess of the hub; a housing having a receptacle for receiving the cover; and means in the housing for disengaging

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the cover from the hub to allow the syringe and needle assembly to be withdrawn from the housing for use while the cover remains in the housing, the means for disengaging the cover ~~comprises~~ comprising one or more solenoids in the housing for moving one or more hooks for engaging one or more handles on the cover for disengaging the at least one protrusion from the at least one recess to disengage the cover from the hub.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the plurality of solenoids are actuated remotely from the housing.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising means in the ~~housing~~ cap holding device for selectively retaining or releasing the cover from engagement within the ~~housing~~ cap holding device.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for selectively retaining or releasing the cover comprises a linkage system in the ~~housing~~ cap holding device for engaging and disengaging a tip of the cap.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for selectively retaining or releasing the cover comprises one or more solenoids having one or more hooks for engaging and disengaging the cap in the ~~holder~~ cap holding device.

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12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the ~~housing~~ cap holding device comprises a weighted base.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of using a syringe comprising:

providing a needle assembly including a hub, a needle with an injection end, and a cover interconnected with the hub and covering the injection end of the needle;

engaging the needle assembly with a syringe body;

inserting the needle assembly into a ~~housing~~ cap holding device;

activating ~~a device within the housing~~ the cap holding device to retain the cover and
permit the needle to be withdrawn from the cover with the injection end of the needle
uncovered; and

using the syringe.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising reinserting the syringe body and needle into the cover in the ~~housing~~ cap holding device and actuating the device to release the cover; and removing ~~remove~~ the syringe body, needle assembly, and cover from the ~~holder~~ cap holding device.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of activating the device comprises actuating a switch remote from the needle.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the step of activating the device comprises depressing a foot switch.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising retaining the cover to remain in the ~~housing~~ cap holding device when the syringe is being used.

18. (New) A cap holding device comprising:

a housing having a receptacle for receiving a syringe and a cover;

first means for releasing the cover from the syringe; and

second means for selectively retaining or releasing the cover from engagement within the housing.

19. (New) The cap holding device of Claim 18, wherein the receptacle and the cover have complimentary geometries to align the cover within the receptacle.

20. (New) The cap holding device of Claim 18, wherein the second means is positioned remotely from the housing.

21. (New) The cap holding device of Claim 20, wherein the second means is foot actuated.